

Ulster County, NY - As part of his ongoing effort to provide firefighters and other emergency responders with the best equipment possible, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Lamontville Fire Department and the Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad have been awarded a total of \$121,981 in federal grants for new equipment.

"This is a good week for our heroic first responders. I'm pleased to announce \$121,981 in new federal funds for our local firefighters and ambulance squad personnel just one day after helping to pass a measure in the House implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission," Hinchey said. "These funds will help pay for new gear and equipment, which in turn will help keep the public more safe as well as our emergency responders. Additionally, these federal grants spare local taxpayers from having to pay the full cost of the new equipment."

The Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad will use its \$50,113 federal grant to buy new stretchers for the ambulances, personal protective gear for the volunteers working at accident scenes, and new radios and other communications equipment. The Lamontville Fire Department will use its \$71,868 federal grant for new equipment.

The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA). As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. He has also sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district to help fire departments with the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.